(ஈ) மாதவரம் பால் பண்ணையிலுள்ள புட்டியில் பால் அடைக்கும் தொழிற்சாலைப் பகுதிக்கு ஏற்பட்ட சேதமும், உதிரிப் பாகங்கள் கிடைக்காமையால் சுகாதாரமற்ற நிலையில் பால் வழங்கப்பட்டது குறித்து.

Dr. H. V. HANDE : I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Food and Commercial Taxes to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the damage to the parts of the bottling plant at Madhavaram Milk Project and the non-availability of spare parts for immediate repair which has resulted in the milk being distributed in cans under unhygienic conditions.

The Hon. Thiru P. U. SHANMUGAM : There are at present three U.D.E.C. Bottling Units at the Madhavaram Central Dairy. Two of them were purchased in 1963 when they had a capacity of bottling 6,000 bottles an hour. The effective capcaity of these two machines has however been reduced considerably because of the wear and tear for 7 years. The third bottling unit has a capacity of 4,000 bottles an hour and was purchased in 1969.

These bottling machines have to handle 50,000 bottles in 5 hours during each shift and so, if any one of the units has to be stopped for essential repairs or servicing, there is some dislocation in the bottling of milk.

Since the UDEC machines are imported units, there is difficulty in getting spares as and when needed. In the earlier years, some spares were imported, but it is found increasingly difficult, expensive and time-consuming to import spares now—especially because this type of machine is itself outdated in the international market.

Recently one of the older bottling units had to be opened up for complete check and overhauling. This necessitated the distribution of milk to some depots in cans for about 5 days from the 16th to 20th March.

Since the import of spares required for the old units would take time, the department has made arrangements to get some of the essential items locally fabricated. Simultaneously action is being taken to import some of the parts which are difficult to fabricate locally. I am glad however to inform the House that despite these difficulties in keeping the two old units in working condition, the department has restored the supply of milk in bottles to all depots after the 25th of March. Only double-toned milk which has all along been supplied in cans with taps, continues to be sent in cans.

Dr. H. V. HANDE : Sir, the Hon. Minister has replied that the particular plant is out-moded and it is very difficult to get spare parts. There are still two plants functioning, on the same model. Will it be possible for Government to :—

(*a*) keep some spares readily.

(*b*) whether it is possible to see that new plants which are not out-moded and which belong to the current model, are got and installed so that milk production does not suffer under any circumstances in future?

The Hon. Thiru P. U. SHANMUGAM : We are making arrangements to import spare parts.